

NWS Grand Junction, Colorado

October 2020

Climate Summary for Eastern Utah and Western Colorado

Produced by Megan Stackhouse, Meteorologist

High pressure kicked off the first week of October with dry conditions persisting across E UT/W CO as well as temperatures some 5 to 10 degrees above normal. A disturbance approached the region on October 9th which brought critical fire weather conditions to the northern and central zones before cooler and unsettled weather moved in over the next couple of days. Conditions moderated before another system arrived with gusty winds and cooler temperatures during mid October. Dry northwesterly flow dominated during the week of October 18th before a very strong and dynamic cold front moved through the area on October 24-26. Rain quickly switched over to snow for almost the entire forecast area with significant snow falling in the mountains and some valleys. The snow caused driving issues, especially along I-70, and also brought power outages to the region as trees, overloaded with snow, fell and brought down power lines. Several snowfall records were broken.

Once the front passed, bitterly cold temperatures moved in breaking many high and low temperature records. This saw a season-ending freeze for the remaining susceptible valleys. A gradual warming trend with drier weather ended the month.

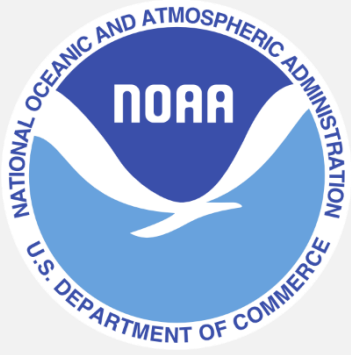
October was on average drier than normal across the region as 10 out of the 10 automated stations found at airports across E UT/W CO ended the month with below normal precipitation. October was generally warmer than normal for most of the region with mean temperatures ranging anywhere from 0.5 to 3 degrees above normal.

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Please note that all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 different airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado. Some of our cooperative observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than what was mentioned in this summary.

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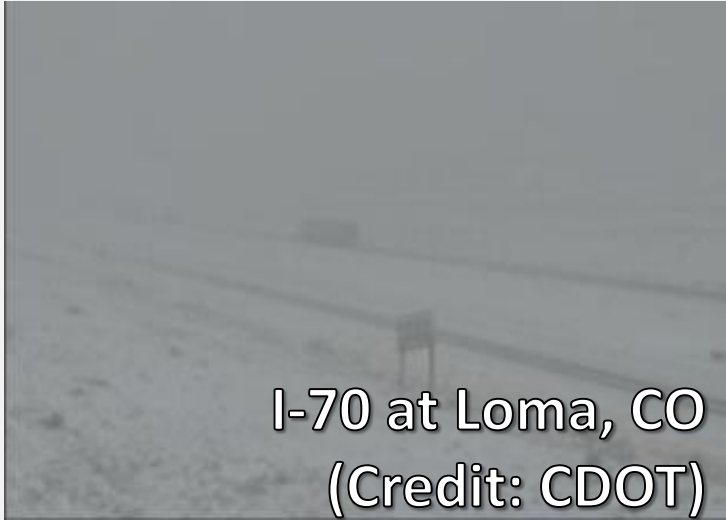




Story of the Month

24 – 26 OCTOBER WINTER STORM

A very strong and dynamic cold front moved through the area and brought significant snow to some mountains and valleys. Generally 5 to 15 inches fell across the northern and central zones. The snow caused driving issues, especially along I-70, and also brought power outages to the region as trees, overloaded with snow, fell and brought down power lines. Bitterly cold temperatures moved in behind the front which saw numerous high and low temperature records.

A very blurry, low-contrast photograph showing what appears to be a highway or road covered in snow. The image is out of focus, making details difficult to discern.

I-70 at Loma, CO
(Credit: CDOT)



October 2020 Temperatures

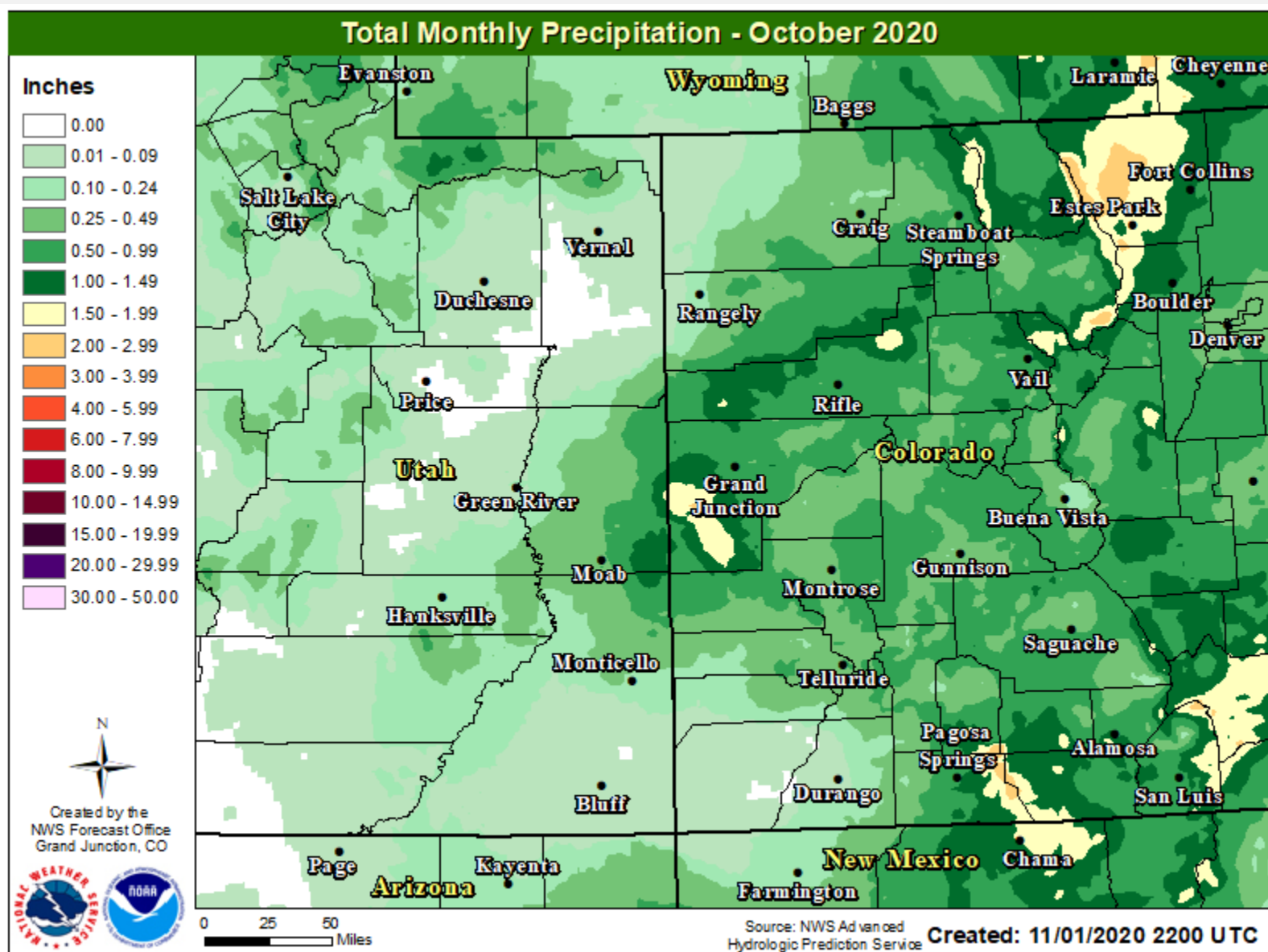
Location	Average Temp (°F) (Versus Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	45.0 (+2.8)	78 on 10/7	-5 on 10/27
Cortez, CO	50.1 (+1.5)	82 on 10/1, 5, 7	11 on 10/27-28
Craig, CO	41.6 (-1.4)	83 on 10/8	-14 on 10/27
Durango, CO	49.8 (+3.0)	81 on 10/5	21 on 10/27
Grand Junction, CO	53.8 (+0.8)	82 on 10/5, 10, 14	11 on 10/27
Meeker, CO	42.9 (-1.5)	79 on 10/6-8	-17 on 10/27
Montrose, CO	51.0 (+1.0)	82 on 10/8	1 on 10/27
Rifle, CO	49.2 (+0.3)	84 on 10/7	-6 on 10/27
Canyonlands Airport, UT	55.6 (+2.1)	85 on 10/4-5, 10	18 on 10/27
Vernal, UT	48.5 (+0.4)	80 on 10/9-10	7 on 10/26

October 2020 Precipitation

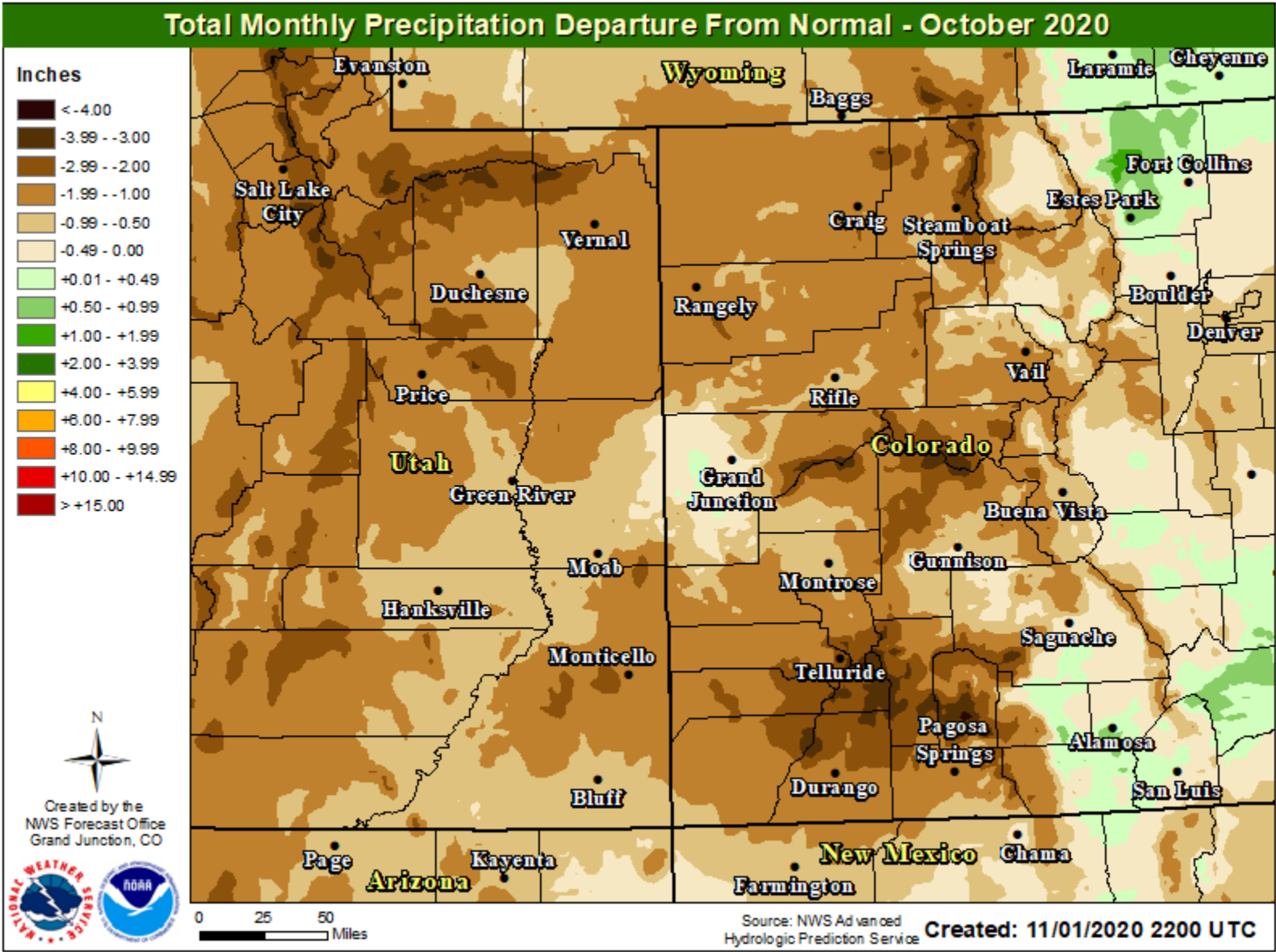
Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.54	-0.93
Cortez, CO	0.04	-1.16
Craig, CO	0.38	-1.27
Durango, CO	0.22	-1.12
Grand Junction, CO	0.59	-0.47
Meeker, CO	0.56	-1.30
Montrose, CO	0.42	-0.77
Rifle, CO	0.46	-1.43
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.40	-0.77
Vernal, UT	0.01	-1.38



Total Monthly Precipitation



Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal



October Daily Record Reports

A total of 3 daily records were set across the primary climate sites

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	Oct 26 th	Low Min Temperature	16°	23° in 2009
Grand Junction, CO	Oct 27 th	Low Min Temperature	13°	23° in 2012
Grand Junction, CO	Oct 28 th	Low Min Temperature	22°	23° in 2019

High Max

Low Max

Precip

High Min

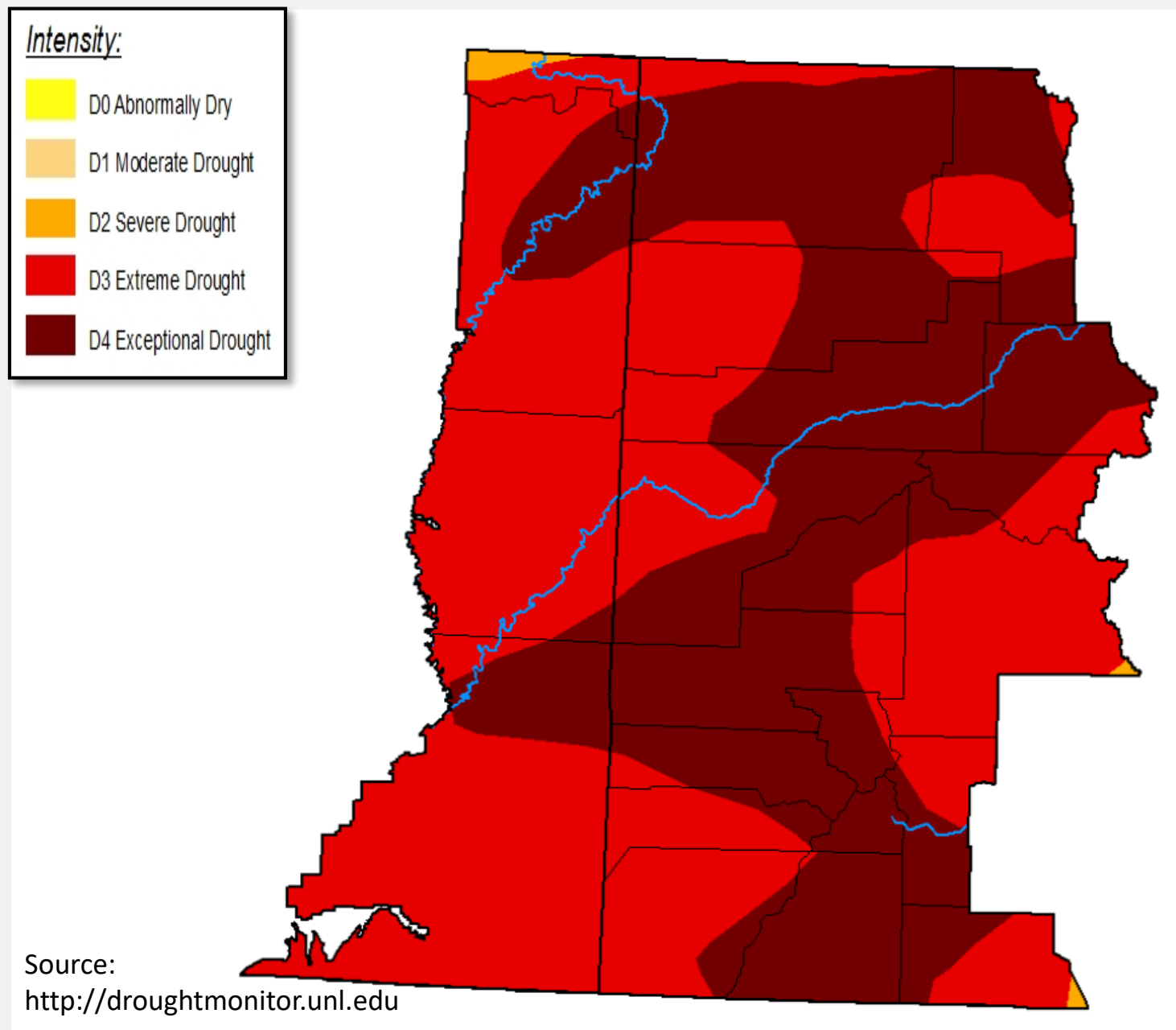
Low Min

Key



Drought Conditions as of November 10th

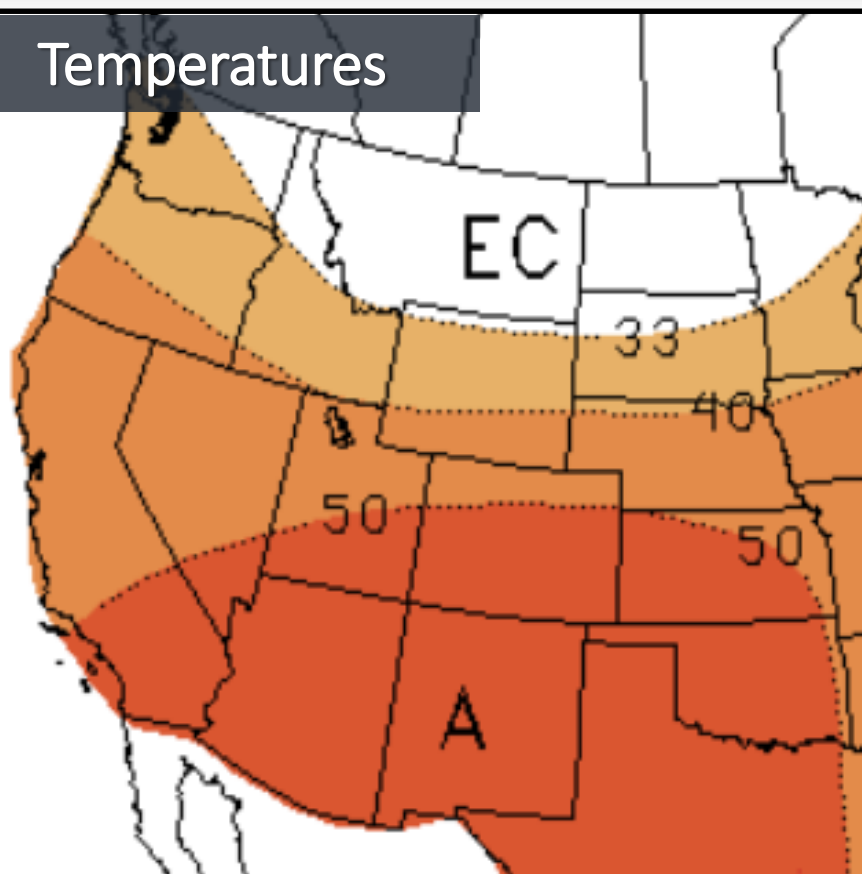
Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought persisted across the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado throughout October and into November. Meanwhile, severe (D2) drought conditions persisted across far northeast Utah.



November Outlook

For November, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring warmer than normal temperatures across all of eastern Utah and western Colorado and below normal precipitation.

Temperatures



Precipitation

